

# Simply the best: Farfar's takes the cake

Local ice cream shop takes top honors — again

By Colleen J. Joyce  
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DUXBURY — Boston Magazine has voted Farfar's Danish Ice Cream Shop the best of the South Shore, something local residents have known for years.

The 23-year-old shop has been creating smiles for customers young and old, with a homemade ice cream recipe passed down from another generation.

The shop was named after the man who made it all possible with that same recipe and a lot of advice.

"Farfar's means grandfather in Danish," said owner Andra Carleton. "That's what my son called my father."

Long before Carleton dreamed of making one hundred gallons of ice cream a day, or being featured in magazines, she said she had a wonderful relationship with her father. A relationship that always seemed to involve ice cream.

"He worked at HP. Hood for years," said Carleton, "so ice cream was an everyday thing."

When Carleton decided to open her own business in 1979, ice cream seemed like that natural route to travel.

"My father gave us the recipe and taught us how to make the ice cream," said Carleton, "Actually he taught us everything."

The influence of her father is seen every day by her customers though they may not be aware of it.

Farfar's tee-shirts and logo are centered around a picture of his face.

The building that houses the ice cream shop was build specifically for Farfar's, just the way Carleton wanted.

"We made it look like a barn on purpose," said Carleton. "It makes the place a comfortable place to be."

The walls are lined with pictures of customers, workers from the past and present dressed for the prom, and newspaper clippings raving about the ice cream's creamy taste and the store's inviting atmosphere.

Children are more than welcomed by the sweet smell in the air and a large roll of paper that transforms a regular wall into work of art.

The "drawing wall" is complete with a daily theme and a tin bucket filled with crayons.

"It's not just for kids," said Carleton, "it's for people who still feel like kids."



Staff photo/Colleen J. Joyce

**We all scream for ice cream** — Especially when it's from Farfar's. Customers await the homemade ice cream named number one in Boston Magazine.

What seems like a hundred banners waving from a beam across the ceiling shows where her "scoopers" have gone to college.

Mostly high school students work at the store, and Carleton holds a place in her heart for each and everyone.

While pointing out pictures on the wall, Carleton smiles as she tells stories of her "scoopers."

"They are all amazing," she said stopping for a moment, "they are hard workers and great people."

Twenty-three people currently work in the store, but Carleton is also talking about the hundreds who have come and gone.

"She came in the other day," said Carleton pointing to a picture over 15 years old of a young girl in a Farfar's T-shirt.

According to Carleton, some have become lawyers, some teachers but mostly they all come back to say hello.

"It is a family here," said Carleton, "and it's home." She could not have come this far, or have been successful

without the help of two men in her life.

"My husband and my son," said Carleton with a bright smile. "They have been great."

So how did she feel to be voted as the best ice cream on the South Shore?

"Oh, it was so exciting," said Carleton. "I am so proud." Her "scoopers" have also shared in the excitement.

"One of my girls called from vacation when she found out," Carleton said. "It is important for them to know they are a very big part of this."

Twenty-three years ago, before the door even opened, Carleton hoped her small store would survive.

She never dreamed it would be like this, she said. "Most nights I have a line out the door."

What is the secret to Farfar's success?  
"It is an excellent product," said Carleton, "and it is a comfortable, fun, relaxing place to be."